

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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Schauer proposes “Freedom Trail” License Plate

Plate would raise money to honor Underground Railroad’s activities in Michigan

LANSING – State Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) has introduced legislation that would provide for a special license plate to commemorate the Underground Railroad’s activities in Michigan. Each “Michigan Freedom Trail” license plate would raise \$25 for the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission. Senator Schauer worked with Senator Buzz Thomas (D-Detroit), the original author of the act establishing the Commission, to provide a funding source for its activities.

“Michigan was one of the key stops in the Underground Railroad,” said Sen. Schauer. “Historians estimate that 50,000 enslaved Americans found their way to freedom through our state. February is Black History Month, and it’s important to remember all of the brave souls who risked their lives in this noble cause.”

Earlier this week, the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission adopted a strategic plan to preserve and promote the Underground Railroad’s heritage in Michigan. Schauer’s bill will support the implementation of the plan’s goals by providing funding for activities such as preserving Railroad sites and promoting heritage tourism.

“In my office is a portrait of Sojourner Truth, the great abolitionist who spent much of her life in Battle Creek,” said Sen. Schauer. “Her presence reminds me every day of the struggle for human rights that continues to this day. The Freedom Trail is reminder of how far we’ve come, but also of how far we have to go.”

Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.

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